

register your presence. We are under call. Senator Barrett, Senator Chambers. Senator Morehead, will you push your button please. Senator Hoagland, Senator Nichol, Senator Peterson. Senator Scofield, Senator Warner, will you poke your button please. Senator Vickers. Senator Landis, please. Thank you. Senator Chizek, will you push your button please. Thank you. Senator Chambers, Senator DeCamp, is the only one we are looking for. Do you want to...do you want a roll call vote, Senator? Call ins. Four that are excused...five, excuse me. Roll call. The Clerk will call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 1822-23 of the Legislative Journal.) 17 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The motion loses. Before we proceed, the Chair would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the body Mrs. David McMasters, wife of the doctor of the day from Auburn. They are guests of Senator Remmers. Would you stand, Mrs. McMasters, so that we may recognize you, please. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend the bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hefner, please. Yes, the call is raised.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, this would be a 2 percent raise for the state employees. This will save us about 3.5 or maybe a little over \$3.5 million this fiscal year and it would also lower the base for the coming fiscal year. Senator Warner said that he was concerned if we delayed the 3 percent raise until January 1 that we would be building in that base and this is true, and so I think this would be a better way to go. But as I have told this body before, the economic conditions in the rural areas is just not improving that much, and so I feel that this would be a compromise. This would be a little over halfway and so I would urge you to support this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Harris, on the Hefner amendment, please.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, I would again rise to oppose an amendment that deals with this 3 percent raise concept. I think it is something that we need to stick with. I urge you to not